

# Camden Avenue Church of Christ

2900 Camden Avenue Parkersburg, West Virginia 26101

We are dedicated to seeking the lost while edifying each other in order that we may all enter the eternal home promised for the faithful.

**Bible Call 304.420.2416** - Recorded information on many Bible subjects

Volume 51, Number 51 ~ December 22, 2019

## Season's Greetings to you and yours from the Elders, Preachers, and Staff

Clayton Huber

John Life

Paul Saunders

Jim Galloway

Dearll Vincent

Mark Tonkery

Doug Wells

Rick Stanley

Wes Cochran

Cody & Kristi Hoover

Laura Tonkery

# In Our Prayers

## Elders:

Jim Galloway  
Clayton Huber  
John Life  
Paul Saunders  
Dearll Vincent

## Deacons:

Kevin Cochran  
Marion Goldsmith  
Steve Gray  
Leonard Haid  
Doug Hershman  
Jon Hescht  
Bill Hoover  
Rob Hoover  
Kevin Inman  
Kyle Inman  
Scott Johnson  
Todd Kirk  
Keith Smith  
Jeff Taberner

## Ministers:

Mark Tonkery  
740.350.5713  
preachertonk@cacoc.net

Doug Wells  
330.231.8097  
Preacher\_doug@outlook.com

## Family Counselor:

Rick Stanley  
304.210.2367

## Secretary

Laura Tonkery  
740.350.5735  
office@cacoc.net

**Camden Avenue  
Church of Christ**  
2900 Camden Avenue  
Parkersburg WV  
26101

**Office:** 304.428.0504  
**Fax:** 304.428.0505

**Website:** www.cacoc.net



## Our church family in need of prayers.

Bob and Sharon Armstrong, Bill Camp, Peggy Cowdery, Richard Cozad, Jim Dailey, Paula Franklin, Gloria Frazier, Don Gaston, Len Haid, Carolyn Henry, Phyllis Johnson, Jo Langler, Bill Lemley, Debby Nesselroad, Lois Nulter, Geraldine Pahl, Jill Peters, Gene and Peg Phillips, Ed & Lois Porter, Jane Pralley, Van Putnam, Ray Sams, June Schultz, Theresa Steed, Sue VanCamp, Dearll Vincent

## Prayers requested for family and friends

Mark Berry, Ron Coe, Ann Duley, Beth Ferguson, Paula Garner (Julie Moser's mother), Danny Guard (friend of Saunders) Charles (Bill) Haid, Tony Haid, Breck Hesselrode, Jim and Jean Huber (Clayton's parents), Brian and Judy Hunter (Kelly and Sandy Sheppard's neighbors), Brandon Penn, Roger Riddle (Ron Riddle's brother), John Rockhold III, Ronnie Smith (Keith Smith's brother)

**We update our Prayer List periodically, removing names if we have no recent updates on that person. Update the office of any changes.**



# Thank You

- ♥ Thank you Bill & Kay Mills for the delicious goodies for the office staff.
- ♥ Thank you for the finals week care package from everyone. Emma Hershman
- ♥ Thank you Keith & Eloise Smith for the wonderful cookies for the office staff.
- ♥ Thank you Verna Huber for making communion for the month of December.
- ♥ Thanks for my birthday cards. Mary Daniel
- ♥ We thank everyone for the anniversary cards. Chris & Debbie Tallman

# *Announcements*

## **DECEMBER 25 SERVICES**

December 25 there will be a singing and devotional service at 7pm instead of regular classes. There will be no 11am class or Pearls Bible study.

## **SACK-THE-PULPIT**

The month of December. Shopping lists are available in the foyer. Items can be left on either side of the front of the auditorium.

## **COMMUNION BREAD**

Many thanks to the ladies who faithfully volunteer to prepare the communion bread each week. There is a sign up sheet in the foyer if you would like to sign up to make communion bread in 2020. Thank you!

## **OPEN HOUSE**

The annual Tonkery open house will be Saturday, January 4th from 2pm-5pm. Everyone is welcome.

## **NOT ANOTHER HOLIDAY DINNER**

January 20 at 6pm at Western Sizzlin. Singing by the Love's Quartet.

## **AREA-WIDE WORSHIP SERVICE**

January 12, 2020 at 2pm at North End church of Christ.

## **TEACHER NEEDED**

The 3 year old class is in need of a teacher for Wednesday Nights beginning next quarter. (starting in February) If you can help see Doug Wells.

## **MOVING HELP NEEDED**

Due to being unable to find help last Saturday we have a member needing help to move this Saturday, December 28. The member is needing help boxing up and moving. We are needing someone to head this up and also those to help with the moving. If you can help see Jeff Taberner.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- ◆ Dewey Avenue church of Christ, St. Marys WV
  - ◆ Winter Training Series Thursdays 7-8pm January 9th-30th.
  
- ◆ Bridgeport church of Christ, Bridgeport WV
  - ◆ One Day Lectureship 2020 Vision, Sunday January 12.
  
- ◆ Fishinger & Kenny church of Christ, Columbus Ohio
  - ◆ Teen Ohio Winter Lectures, January 24-25
  - ◆ Ohio Winter Lectures Raising Up a New Generation, January 24-25

# Tonk Talk by Mark T. Tonkery

## CAN CHRIST INFLUENCE CHRISTMAS?

The Encyclopedia Britannica had this article about December 17-25 during the first century. "Businesses, schools, and law courts are closed so that the public could feast, dance, gamble, and generally indulge in selfishness to the fullest in wild merry making." This was to celebrate an ancient Roman festival, a winter festival to celebrate one of their gods Mithra, which formed the cult of Mithraism. Mithra was the Iranian god of light and December 25 was his birthday. (Vol VI Pg 945; Vol 7 Pg 202). (The Bible does not tell us the specific date of Christ's birth).

Then fast forward to our day and time and things still have not changed much. We hear about "porch pirates," domestic violence, alcohol and drug related crimes which all seem to be more common this time of year. Do an internet search and you will see news articles talking about "Christmas the most dangerous time of the year", "criminals celebrate with crime", and "holiday season is crime season." Then if this is not enough take a drive to your local grocery store or department store and see what happens? People cutting one another off, not yielding to pedestrians, driving the wrong way, car accidents, and that is before you get into the store. Space would not allow for the greed, materialism, profanity, and selfishness one sees just going to the store.

So, I wonder, can Christ influence Christmas? Notice this is quite different than what many religionists say, but I believe it is a valid question, when one considers all the evil, violence, and selfishness that takes place this time of year.

I don't know when Jesus was born, but I know He was born and when He looks down at this world and sees how people "celebrate" this time of year in His name, I am sure He is not pleased.

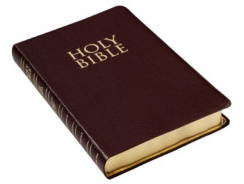
Remember Jesus Christ was not just born in Bethlehem so that the world would celebrate His birth once a year, remember Him only once a year, if we call all the selfishness, greed, and evil celebrating.

Jesus was, however, born to be the Savior of the world. God gave His Son (John 3:16) to die for our sins (Romans 5:8) and to be raised from the dead to live evermore (1 Cor. 15:1-4). So that He could influence our world, our lives, and take away our sins. He came to show us a better way to live, to worship, and serve God every day. There is no doubt about it that Christ can influence the world. The question remains has he influenced your world, your life, your Christmas?

Someone has stated, "The spirit of Christmas needs to be superseded by the Spirit of Christ. The spirit of Christmas is annual; the Spirit of Christ is eternal. The spirit of Christmas is sentimental; the Spirit of Christ is supernatural. The spirit of Christmas is a human product; the Spirit of Christ is a divine person. That makes all the difference in the world."<sup>[1]</sup>

So, can Christ influence Christmas? My life? Our world? Yes, but only if we allow Him. Will you allow Christ to influence your Christmas, your New Year, and your everyday life? Think about it! Mark T. Tonkery

AM Sermon by Mark T. Tonkery  
**What does it mean to seek the Lord?**  
Scripture Reading: Matthew 7:7-8



Are you interested in the things of God? Are you willing to seek Christ?

Discussion

I. What does it mean to seek the Lord?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_

II. Who can seek the Lord?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_

III. How can we seek the Lord?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

IV. Why do some not find the Lord?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_

V. Where do I seek the Lord?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_

VI. When should I seek the Lord?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_

# DOUG'S DISCUSSION

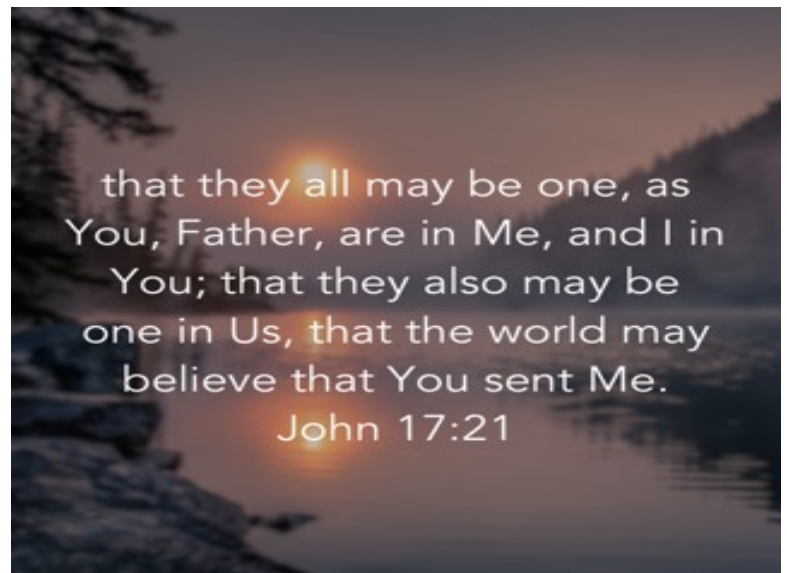
## That We May Be One

There is power in unity. Jesus prayed about the believers, “that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” (John 17:21). Oh how I wish it were so! I wish all who call themselves believers were all united in truth. I’m convinced more would be Christians if all believers presented a united front. Instead, spiritual seekers have to wade through dozens of different groups all claiming to be Christian but who oppose and disagree with one another in various ways. Some look at this situation and grow disgusted with the whole thing and give up. How can we do better?

First, we must come to agree on what is essential. Jesus once asked, “Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” (Luke 6:46). What Jesus says through the Word is essential. We must all follow what the Book says. To be a Christian is to be obedient to Christ’s teachings. If someone disagrees with one of these teachings they must be taught. We cannot be unified with someone who disagrees with Jesus, so our mission is to teach and persuade until we can come together on the truth. That’s a big job but we can all take the opportunities God gives us to speak where the Bible speaks.

Next, we learn to tolerate difference on what is not essential (disputable). “Whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God” (Romans 14:22). Churches divide over ridiculous things all the time. Why muddy the waters in this way for those seeking to come to the Christian faith? In my experience most church disagreements aren’t really about scripture, they are about opinion matters like what you see described in Romans 14. In these kinds of situations we are called to respect one another and stay together. I have yet to find another human being who agrees with me about everything – and that’s okay.

In summary, we teach to come together on what is essential. We learn to tolerate differences on what is not. All this is in pursuit of being one, so that the world may know that God sent Jesus. May we be one!



# Youth News

## LADS TO LEADERS/LEADERETTES

January 5 after morning worship. There will be a fellowship in the MP room for all participants and leaders. Pizza will be provided.



## TRAVELING YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, December 29 at Rosemar church of Christ. The bus will leave at 3:30pm.

## NEW YEARS EVE

December 31 at 7pm in the MP room. There will be a fellowship for all interested. Bring money for pizza, snacks, drinks, and your favorite games. Sign up sheet is on the counter if you plan on attending.

## **BIBLE CALL**

**304.420.2416**

**HEAR RECORDED INFORMATION ON HUNDREDS OF BIBLE SUBJECTS**

**24 HOURS A DAY - 7 DAYS A WEEK.**

**BROCHURES ARE IN THE FOYERS.**

**DISTRIBUTE THEM TO FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND CO-WORKERS.**

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## **Minute of Meditation by Mark Tonkery**

Heard on 910 AM WLTP

### His Eye is on the Sparrow

There is a story told of a sparrow that built its nest in a freight car while it was being repaired. When it was time to return the car to service, the next was filled with baby birds. The railroad workers were touched by the beauty of nature and were concerned what might happen to the birds if they were to move the nest. They appealed to their supervisor who made the decision to leave the car out of service until the baby birds were able to leave the nest.

It was somewhat surprising that a big railroad company was moved with compassion to protect the helpless little birds. This story reminds me of what Jesus once said, "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Mt. 6:26)

God knows the plight of each of His creatures, especially you and I who are made in His image. After all Jesus did say we have more value than a sparrow.

I am Mark T. Tonkery and this has been a minute of meditation from the Camden Avenue church of Christ where you are always welcome!

## Serving In Worship

Sunday, December 29

**ELDER IN CHARGE** - Paul Saunders  
**DEACON IN CHARGE** - Jeff Taberner

### SONG LEADERS

AM - Kyle Inman  
 PM - Ryan Highman

### PRAYER

9:30 AM - Dennis Keller  
 Close - Chris Hofmann  
 6:00 PM - Scott Johnson  
 Close - Todd Kirk

### SCRIPTURE

AM - Kevin Cochran  
 PM - Gary Alton

### COMMUNION

AM - Paul Inman  
 PM - Dwain Shears  
 Mike Wade

**PA SYSTEM** -Jim Galloway

### DOOR GREETERS

**AM** 1 - Dwain Shears  
 2 - Jeff Taberner  
 3 - Julie Taberner

### **PM**

1. Gary Alton & Delmas Carr  
 2. David & Christine Epler  
 5. Marion & Jo Goldsmith  
 6. Doug & Raeanne Wells

## Facts and Figures

December 15, 2019

AM Service.....266  
 Bible Study.....165  
 PM Service.....182  
 Wednesday.....195  
 Contribution.....\$6954.00

### MEMBERSHIP FOR 2019

Baptisms.....2  
 Restored or Requested Prayers...5  
 Placed Membership.....8

## Service Times

### Sunday

AM Worship.....9:30  
 Bible Study....15 min. after worship  
 PM Worship.....6:00

### Wednesday

Bible Study.....11am & 7:00pm

## January Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1- Jim Merrill
- 3- Ryan Gaston
- 9- Patty Alton
- 9- Gary Farris
- 10- Cody Hoover
- 10- Lorna Marshall
- 12- Lucille Hardman
- 14- Bill Hoover
- 14- Ron Moncrief
- 14- Bob Smith
- 17- Gala Miller
- 17- \*Bill & De Fleak
- 17- \*Dearll & Carol Vincent
- 18- Merilee Morgan
- 18- \*Bob & Sharon Smith
- 19- Keith Smith
- 24- Ben Haught
- 24- Sarah Inman
- 24- Joyce Wright
- 26- Brittany Gray
- 26- Becky Inman
- 27- Betty Lamb
- 28- Donna McConnell
- 30- Cotton Sayre



Please let the office know of any additions or corrections.

### Watch **"IN SEARCH OF THE LORD'S WAY"**

each Sunday morning at 7:30 on  
 WTAP, Dish Channel 239, Sunday  
 7:00AM, DIRECT TV Channel 307  
 Sunday 7:00AM, Local cable Channel  
 4 Sunday 6:30AM, GBN Sunday  
 7:00PM, Monday 2:00PM, Thursday  
 5:00PM.

### December 29

*Pray Without Ceasing*

## Daily Bible Reading

December 23: Rev. 13, Nah. 1-3  
 December 24: Rev. 14, Hab. 1-3  
 December 25: Rev. 15-16, Zeph. 1-3  
 December 26: Rev. 17, Hagg. 1-2  
 December 27: Rev. 18, Zec. 1-5  
 December 28: Rev. 19, Zec. 6-8  
 December 29: Rev. 20, Zec. 9-11